

Decision _____

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of PACIFIC GAS AND
ELECTRIC COMPANY, a California
Corporation, for a Permit To Construct the
Atlantic-Del Mar Reinforcement Project
Pursuant to General Order 131-D. (U 39 E)

Application 01-07-004
(Filed July 9, 2001)

OPINION MODIFYING DECISION 03-02-007

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has informed the Commission that certain changes to the project authorized in Decision (D.) 03-02-007 are required to comply with the requirements of General Order 95. This decision authorizes the requested modifications to the project and approves the Addendum to the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (FMND).

D.03-02-007 granted PG&E a permit to construct the Atlantic-Del Mar Reinforcement Project, a 60 kilovolt (kV) transmission project to serve the Rocklin and Roseville area. That same decision adopted the FMND for the project and described a particular route and project scope. After D.03-02-007 was issued, it became clear that certain pole heights needed to increase in order to comply with clearance requirements of General Order 95. The increase for the six poles is on the order of ten feet per pole as described in the Addendum (Attachment A). Energy Division has reviewed the proposed project modifications and determined that, with implementation of existing mitigation measures, no new environmental impacts will occur. The staff concluded that

preparation of an Addendum was appropriate under CEQA Guidelines Section 15164. Given the finding of our staff, we will consider and approve the Addendum to the FMND prepared by Energy Division regarding the Atlantic-Del Mar Reinforcement Project.

This is an uncontested matter in which the decision grants the relief requested. Accordingly, pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 311(g)(2), the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment is waived.

Findings of Fact

1. PG&E has made minor adjustments to the project approved in D.03-02-007 to comply with General Order 95.
2. All necessary CEQA review of the proposed project modifications has occurred.
3. Commission Energy Division staff prepared an Addendum to the FMND that concludes the project modification described in Attachment A will not result in a significant impact to the environment.

Conclusions of Law

1. The Addendum to the FMND contained in Attachment A to this order should be approved.
2. D.03-02-007 should be modified to authorize construction of the project as modified by the Addendum.
3. This order should be effective immediately to allow PG&E to complete construction of the project.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Decision 03-02-007 is modified to allow Pacific Gas and Electric Company construct the Atlantic-Del Mar Reinforcement Project as modified by the Addendum to the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (FMND).
2. The Addendum to the FMND (Attachment A) is approved.
3. This proceeding is closed.

This order is effective today.

Dated _____, at San Francisco, California.

ATTACHMENT A
CEQA Addendum
CPUC - Energy Division

Summary

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15164, the California Public Utilities Commission has prepared this Addendum to the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (FMND) published for the Atlantic Del Mar Reinforcement Project and adopted in D.03 02 007 (Pacific Gas and Electric, inc. Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study for the Atlantic Del Mar Reinforcement Project; CPUC 2003).

As described below, the Applicant has informed the CPUC of modifications to the project that was the subject of an MND previously issued and adopted by the Commission. These modifications were reviewed by the agency and found not to result in either any new, previously undisclosed impacts or any previously disclosed impacts of greater severity. Therefore, the agency finds that the preparation of an Addendum pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 is appropriate for the modifications to the MFN project.

This document identifies modifications to Pacific Gas and Electric's Atlantic Del Mar Project and summarizes the documentation of the proposed changes.

Project Description

The project consists of: (1) the installation of approximately 4 miles of 60 kilovolt (kV) single circuit electric power line; and (2) installation of a new 60 kV breaker at the existing Atlantic Substation, and (3) installation of a new switch at the existing Del Mar Substation. This project was the subject of a FMND in February 2003

Subsequent to the CPUC's approval in D.03-02-007 on February 13, 2003 to construct the project, it has been determined that engineering changes are needed to modify the heights of certain poles to comply with the CPUC's General Order 95. These project modifications are detailed below:

1. The two crossing poles at Highway 65, which were to be 135' tall due to the elevated roadway, will now be 145' tall (Roughly 50' will be below the level of the road).
2. Three other poles between Highway 65 and Sunset Avenue will also exceed the previous 110' estimate; two will be 115' tall and the transition pole will be 120' tall.
3. One other pole, north of Midas Avenue at Yankee Hill Road, will be 115' tall to avoid removing trees.

Impacts of Project Modifications

Analysis of the project changes showed that, with the implementation of the existing mitigation measures, there would be no new environmental impacts.

Recommendations

With the implementation of existing mitigation measures, the proposed project modifications will have no significant impact. No further analysis or documentation is required.

(END OF ATTACHMENT A)